

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USINFO WASHDC
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
CINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1701

NAPLES ALSO FOR INTAF

USINFO ALSO FOR IBS/PN, IPS/PE, IEU, IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW OF RETIRING CHIEF TURKISH GENERAL STAFF

1. MASS APPEAL TURKISH DAILY "HURRIYET" PUBLISHED MARCH 6
AN INTERVIEW WITH RETIRING CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF
GENERAL SEMIH SANCAR. (CONSERVATIVE "TERCUMAN" CARRIED
VIRTUALLY THE SAME INTERVIEW.) IN THE INTERVIEW SANCAR
DISCUSSES THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

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2. CYPRUS: RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT TERRITORY
COULD BE RETURNED TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS, SANCAR IS QUOTED AS
SAYING THE ISSUE WAS POLITICAL. PRESSED ON THE STATUS OF
VAROSHA, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT "THE PORT OF FAMAGUSTA IS AN
INDISPENSABLE PORT" AND THE "VAROSHA REGION IMMEDIATELY
NEXT TO IT....SHOULD CATEGORICALLY REMAIN IN OUR CONTROL
FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF OUR SECURITY." SAN CAR DESCRIBES

TURKEY'S SECURITY INTERESTS ON CYPRUS, HOWEVER, AS BEING DERIVED FROM TURKEY'S ROLE AS A GUARANTOR OF THE CYPRIOT STATE AND SAYS, 1WHEN PEACE IS ESTABLISHED WE WILL WITHDRAW OUR FORCES FROM THE ISLAND."

3. COUNTER-GUERRILLA: SANCAR IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THERE IS NO COUNTER-GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION AND THAT THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ATTACKING "ANARCHISTS AND TERRORISTS" ARE ONLY "ATTEMPTING TO DISCREDIT THE ARMED FORCES."

4. THE EMBARGO: SANCAR ADMITS THAT THE "EMBARGO" HAS HURT TURKEY'S COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE GOT SHOULD ACCEPT WEAPONS FROM "OTHER BLOCS" SANCAR IS QUOTED AS SAYING "STANDARDIZATION OF ARMS IS ESSTNTIAL" AND THAT PURCHASING ARMS FROM MANY SOURCES WOULD NOT BE USEFUL.

4. ECONOMIC EMBARGO: THE "TERCUMAN" ARTICLE REPORTS THAT GENERAL SANCAR ASSERTS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IMPOSING AN ECONOMIC EMBARGO ALONG WITH AN ARMS EMBARGO. "WE HAVE EVEN BEEN OBSTRUCTED FROM SELLING OUR EXPORT GOODS," SANCAR IS QUOTED AS SAYING.

5. NATO: "THERE IS NO QUESTION OF A CHANGE IN VIEW CONCERNING NATO. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SOME DIFFERENCES ORIGINATING UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM THE EMBARGO WITH ONE MEMBER, IN FACT THE LEADER OF NATO, THE UNITED STATES." ALSO, THE "TERCUMAN" ARTICLE REPORTS THAT SANCAR IS ASTONISHED THAT NATO BASES IN TURKEY ARE CONFUSED WITH U.S. BASES IN TURKEY.
SPIERS

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